BEDALE AND BEYOND

Linking Church and Community in
Bedale, Burrill, Leeming and Thornton Watlass

Dec '24 & Jan '25

Burrill News

One of our aims has been to update the church building at Burrill so we can hold community focused events.

You will remember we have adapted the remainder of the pews so they can be removed or re-positioned when there is need to do so. Well, on the 2nd November we held a rummage sale in aid of SPANA, a charity looking after working animals which is supported by a member of the village. We raised over £280 for SPANA as well as nearly £100 for Burrill Church itself. We hope it will be the first of many events to come.

At the same time I can report the removal of the tree growing in the Bell tower thanks to local tree surgeons working in the area helping us out.

REMEMBRANCE GIFT

Bedale Beavers quilled (coiling strips of paper) a poppy and then they chose to present it to St Gregory's as part of their Remembrance activities.

The Beavers really enjoyed learning a new skill and some are even taking quilling up for their Hobbies badge.

THE RECTOR WRITES

I have just returned from a week long retreat in the community of Taize; which is a basic monastery. Taize is an extraordinary place attracting thousands of young people a week, who find lodgings, basic food, worship three times each day, bible study, discussion and silence. I first visited 42 years ago, subsequent years and then in 2007. Little has changed, although this time numbers were small compared to the warmer months.

One of my contemplations were guided by a book I took with me, and the theme was compassion. True compassion, it was suggested, is a threefold process. Firstly, there is an identifying of need; the seeing, hearing and, touching, the sensing of a situation. Secondly, feeling the call or vocation to be alongside in the moment, not holding back or stepping away. Thirdly, there is that practical help; not just nodding at the need. Compassionate faith is what is talked about in the letter of St James in the new Testament, and in action, and visualised when Jesus at Jericho with the blind shouting for healing.

I call to mind the child we sponsor as a benefice in Bolivia and the work of 'Compassion UK'. Edwin receives support though our contribution and we receive updates on his progress; detail can be found at the back of church and sometimes in this magazine.

But, I want you to be aware of the needs of others this Christmas and New Year and practice compassion. I have talked before of 'random acts of kindness' and of the call of Jesus to 'not let the left hand know what the right hand is doing'. Perhaps these two axioms can guide you in Christmas and the New Year.

As an extra thought; Christmas and the nativity/life of Jesus shows us the compassion that God the Father has for this world. Sending a Son into the human context is God identifying need; God's vocation to be alongside us in the moment and in a real sense that practical help which continues today.

Simon

Dec and Jan Prayer Diary

Intercessions for the streets, roads and lanes within the Benefice and specific themes for daily prayer during the months covered by this magazine.

1	Harkness Close	Leeming Bar		Mattison Close	Leeming Bar
2	Harkness Drive	Leeming Bar		Meadow Field	Aiskew
3	Hawthorn Lane	Bedale		Meadow Grove	Bedale
4	Hawthorn Mews	Leeming Bar		Milburn Terrace	Leeming Bar
5	Hawthorne Close	RAF Leeming		Mill Lane	Leeming
6	Hazel Court	Aiskew		Millfield Close	Leeming
7	Heron Close	Aiskew		Moor End Lane	Burrill
8	High Lane	Burrill		Mosquito Garth	Bedale
9	High Row	T/Watlass		Mowbray Crescent	Bedale
10	Hird Avenue	Bedale		Mowbray Terrace	Leeming Bar
11	Hollins Lane	Bedale		Nattrass Walk	Bedale
12	Holly Close	RAF Leeming		Newsteads	Aiskew
13	Holly Road	Aiskew		Newton Crescent	Leeming
14	Iddison Drive	Bedale		North End	Bedale
15	Ings View	Aiskew		Northallerton Road	Leeming Bar
16	Ivy Close	RAF Leeming		Oak Close	RAF Leeming
17	Javelin Way	Bedale		Oak Tree Close	Bedale
18	Jubilee Road	Aiskew		Oak Tree Drive	Bedale
19	Kendrew Close	Bedale		Oak Tree Road	Bedale
20	Kingfisher Drive	Aiskew		Otterbeck Way	Aiskew
21	Laurel Close	RAF Leeming		Parker Drive	Bedale
22	Leases Road	Leeming Bar		Pasture Drive	Bedale
23	Leeming Lane	Leeming Bar		Peirse Close	Bedale
24	Lord's Lane	Bedale		Pinewood Grove	Bedale
25	Love Lane	Aiskew		Plews Way	Leeming Bar
26	Low Street	Leeming Bar		Poppy Court	Aiskew
27	Lowlands Drive	Leeming Bar		Portland Way	Leeming Bar
28	Mapel Close	RAF Leeming		Potlands	Leeming Bar
29	Maple Close	RAF Leeming		Primrose Way	Aiskew
30	Market Place	Bedale		Progress Row	Leeming Bar
31	Masham Road	Bedale		Prospect Way	Leeming

1	For all who are struggling mentally and financially at this time.
2	For Simon, Caroline, and their family, for their ministry with us, and for the energy required to manage all the extra work and services that the Christmas season brings.
3	For the treasurers, secretaries, and other officers of the Benefice PCC's.
4	For all who act as servers, intercessors, sided persons, and those who read the lessons at the services.
5	For those whom you find it difficult to pray for.
6	For our Diocesan Bishop Nick, and the Area Bishops of the Diocese.
7	For all who come through the doors of our churches this Christmastide, that they will feel the love and fellowship of Christ.
8	For the housebound and the lonely.
9	For the armed services and, especially, those who are stationed at RAF Leeming and Catterick Garrison.
10	For the tourists who visit the area.
11	For the Church Wardens of the churches in the Benefice.
12	For all who come to be married at our churches, and those who minister to them.
13	For all who care for the church buildings, or who look after the linen, candles, etc.
14	For the emergency services, including the Air Ambulance, Coastguard, and the volunteers of the rescue services across the Pennines, Moors, and the Dales.
15	For the Readers and Lay Worship Leaders in the Benefice.
16	For the health care practices, and those who in private practice, providing individual health care. Also for those who provide veterinary care.
17	For the mission & ministry of our churches and parishes within the benefice.
18	For all the prayer and study groups that meet, for a growth in these groups.
19	For the homeless, and the volunteers who administer the Food Banks.
20	For the hospitals, the staff, and the patients in their care.
21	For the commercial and retail areas within the benefice.
22	For residents and staff of all the Care and Residential Homes in the benefice.
23	For all who minister to & attend the Methodist & Catholic Churches in our benefice.
24	For new members to come into our church family and that they be made welcome.
25	Give thanks for God's blessings which have helped us through a difficult year and His continued blessings for the year ahead.
26	Our ministry with the children and the youth work, both in the schools and otherwise in outside activities.
27	The staff and pupils at our schools.
28	For the farming community.
29	For those who care for people in their own homes, whether relatives or home carers, and those whom they care for
30	For all involved in the tourist industry.
31	For the leaders of the nations, for better understanding of 'love your neighbour'.

What does Christmas Really Mean??

This is an easy yet hard question to answer honestly. Christmas is regarded as a family time, where we gather our loved ones to us, or we go to them. We start off with all good intentions; of having the expectations of seeing familiar faces, some we haven't seen for a while, and others we see on a regular basis, and catching up on news. There has been much deliberation of what food is to be provided and whether it's a shared event, where each separate family provide something towards the meal, or the host family take on the expense and provide everything from the potatoes to the meat and Christmas pudding. Either way, it is a time for communication.

If we take away the Christmas decorations and tree and presents, what have we left? A room full of people, including children all of whom have nothing to look forward to, except to talk. Talk about what? Who starts the conversation? – Is it a general conversation to include all in the room including children, or just for individuals, or worse still just for the adults? We all have a problem with communication; what subject do we discuss? Is it something thought-provoking, political, gossipy and what should be avoided for fear of upsetting the present company?

Children today, seem only to be able to communicate using social media, but take away their iPads, iPhones and what is left for them? Very few youngsters communicate by letter, is it because their writing skills are not that good, or they are so used to using their fingers and thumbs texting as they walk along the street, that it quicker? How many of us could or would communicate using text language to say good-bye – **CUL8R** (see you later)?

Yet, the one person it should be easy to communicate with is God. Why is it not? Do we fear what he might make us do, or do we think God can't help us in a particular situation? How can we communicate with God? God cannot be communicated by text, phone or letter but will speak to us in two ways. We can read the Bible and read his word and we can ask for help, guidance, and comfort in our prayers. One of the most difficult things I find still, is to find the right words to pray. It takes time to think of what to say and I do it by clearing my mind of everyday things, and to allow myself the period of quietness, where the path is clear for God to enter my mind and speak to me and me to respond. Some of the things we ask from God maybe a little too much self-centred – I am pretty sure God is not going to fix the lottery numbers for me to win millions! Yet at Christmas we have come to expect gifts, food and drink, happiness, and conversations. God will provide the well-with-all to grow the food and give us the ability to learn how to prepare and cook the food. He also equips us to be attentive to the needs of others and to provide for the needs of those less well off.

So, how can we improve our Christmas? As the preparation for Christmas begins with Advent Sunday services, it's a time for reflection, making good (saying 'sorry', mending relationships), planning, preparation to accept Jesus into our hearts and lives (again). And all leading up to one of the most important occasions. The Birth of Our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

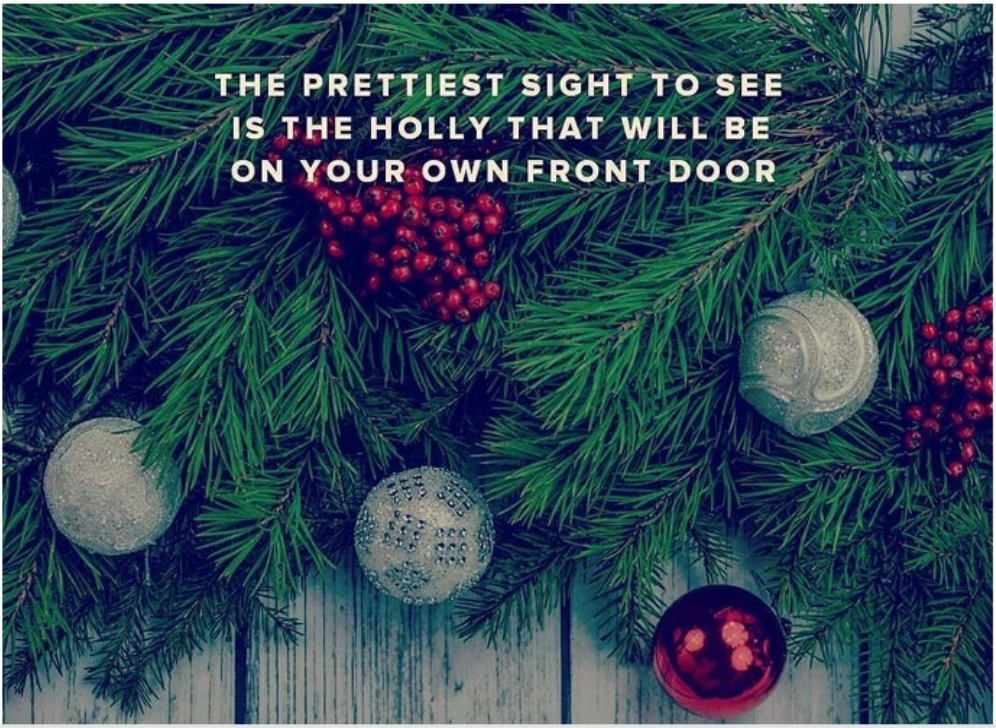
In our time here in North Yorkshire, this being my 23rd Christmas, Robin and I have tried to be kind and considerate to each other and to those less fortunate. Over the past 23 years, we will have welcomed 19 guests, those who would normally be on their own, into our home, (over 19 years) for Christmas lunch – and if they wish to stay for tea and supper, they are welcome. Covid meant we were unable to continue this, and afterwards, the idea dropped away. So, what do we do now? We give to various charities to provide food for the homeless, especially at Christmas, and there are various charities we donate to, as part of Christmas presents to others. Yes, I still like my Christmas tree, and lights, candles, and tree decorations. We have floral arrangements on the dining table and around the house, and stockings hanging up (including one for our dog, George.) But the overall Christmas message, is one of peace, love and above all communication. Forget the texts and emails, write a card, a thank-you letter, switch off the television and talk about life – what you hope for, what others want, and try and see others in a positive light. Enjoy the excitement of others, and the share the sorrow when needed.

We can all say things which are not nice in the heat of the moment, but do we mean them? We can snap and snarl if provoked – sometimes without being provoked – and sometimes we can be forgiven by others if we are prepared to talk about the reason behind the snap and snarl. How many of us do try to talk to others in a caring, understanding way?

In my prayers at night, I always ask God to forgive me for what I have done amiss during the day. Sometimes, I don't always realise that I have been less than kind, and I am sure that I have at ties. But God knows me, and he can see where I have gone wrong. And in the quieter moments, God tells me to reflect on the day to see if I can spot those occasions I have been in the wrong. Sometimes I do and will try to ensure I avoid the same pit hole in my life. Sometimes I answer God by saying, 'he deserved it'. Maybe 'He' did, but is it my right to accuse and punish?

No!! For Christmas is a time of reflection, of wonder, celebration, caring and sharing, and communication. But above all, love. Let us all have and give freely these things in abundance this Christmas!!

Mal Rowland



Christmas Wreath Workshop

Saturday 7th December 2024, 10am

Chantry Hall, Bedale, DL8 1AB

What better way is there to start the festive season than an afternoon making your very own Christmas wreath? Spend an enjoyable time making a beautiful creation for your own front door.

On this session, you will be taught how to make a traditional Christmas wreath, and all materials will be supplied. No prior knowledge required, just bring your festive cheer.

All money raised will be to support the charity work of Kumi Community Foundation, helping disabled people in Uganda Africa.

To book a place contact lmw21@btinternet.com or telephone 07712270855

Cost Only £25

Deanery Prayer Meetings - 2025

WHEN? 1st Mondays 11am - 12noon.

Arrive at 10.45am if you would like tea/ coffee

WHERE? East Witton Parish Room each month (near the bus stop at the bottom of the Green). You can park on the roadside.

WHAT? Our prayers for our beautiful deanery will have a liturgical structure with space inbetween for our own prayers and for silent prayer. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PRAY OUT LOUD. God hears all the prayers of our hearts, whether spoken or unspoken, and everyone is warmly invited to come.

WHO? You! Why not? God hears all the prayers offered to him. He doesn't favour the prayers of some over others.

DATES: 1st Monday of each month (not May or August) beginning on:
Monday 6th January 10.45am for coffee. Finish at 12pm

Service Times and Venues.

Thursday @10.30am
HC @ St Gregory's

	9.15am—Communion * Facebook	***10.45—Communion***	***18.30—Evensong Conference Call***
Week 1	+8am St Gregory's Bedale	10.45 T/Watlass 11am Leeming	St Gregory's Bedale
Week 2	St Gregory's Bedale	St Mary's Thornton Watlass	Burrill Church
Week 3	St Gregory's Bedale	10.45 T/Watlass 11am Leeming	St Mary's Thornton Watlass
Week 4	9 am Burrill Church St Gregory's	St Mary's Thornton Watlass	St John's Leeming

Note that Evensong begins at 4pm when the clocks change for winter time.

BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, WEDDINGS & MEMORIALS

For any enquiries please contact admin@bedale.church.

Christmas Programme

Sat 30th Nov 2pm	Benefice Coffee served in Chantry Hall for the Christmas Market
Tues 3rd Dec 2pm	Thornton Watlass Choral Group at Tueday Togetherness
Thurs 5th Dec 2pm	WI Carol Service in St Gregory's, Bedale
Fri 6th Dec 5pm	Bedale Primary Christingle in St Gregory's
Sat 7th Dec 4.00pm	Masons Carol Service in St Gregory's, Bedale
Tues 10th Dec 11am	Tuesday Togetherness Service in Chantry Hall
Wed 11th Dec 2pm & 5.30pm	Leeming & Londonderry School Nativity in St John's Church, Leeming
Wed 11th Dec 2pm & Thurs 12th Dec 6pm	Thornton Watlass School Nativity in St Mary's Church, Thornton Watlass
Fri 13th Dec 6pm	Carols at Leeming Bar Grange
Sun 15th Dec 4pm	Carol Service in St Mary's, Thornton Watlass
Tues 17th Dec 12 noon	Tuesday Togetherness Christmas Meal in Chantry Hall
Tues 17th Dec 6.30pm	Carols Around Thornton Watlass Village
Wed 18th Dec 10.00 & 11.00am	Bedale Primary School Christmas Service in St Gregory's
Wed 18th Dec 7pm	St John's Leeming Church Carol Service
Thurs 19th Dec 10 -12	St John's Leeming Church Coffee Morning

Thur 19th Dec 6pm Thornton Watlass School Carol Service
In St Mary's Church, Thornton Watlass

Fri 20th Dec 10.30am Mowbray School Christmas Service
In St Gregory's Church

Fri 20th Dec 2pm Carols at the Millings

Sun 22nd Dec 6.00pm Bedale Town Carol Service in St Gregory's

Mon 23rd Dec 6.30pm Carols in Burrill Church

Tues 24th Dec 3pm Crib Service in St Mary's Thornton Watlass

Tues 24th Dec 4pm Crib Service in St Gregory's Bedale

Tues 24th Dec 7.30pm Christmas Communion
in St John's Leeming

Tues 24th Dec 11.30pm Midnight Communion
St Mary's, Thornton Watlass
and St Gregory's, Bedale

Wed 25th Dec 8am Holy Communion St Gregory's Bedale

Wed 25th Dec 9am Holy Communion Burrill Church

Wed 25th Dec 10am Family Service—St Gregory's Bedale

Wed 25th Dec 10.45am Holy Communion
In St Mary's Thornton Watlass

Sun 29th Dec 10.30am Benefice Service
in St Gregory's Bedale

Wed 25th Dec 8am Holy Communion St Gregory's Bedale

Wed 25th Dec 9am Holy Communion Burrill Church

Wed 25th Dec 10am Family Service—St Gregory's Bedale

Wed 25th Dec 10.45am Holy Communion
In St Mary's Thornton Watlass

Sun 29th Dec 10.30am Benefice Service
in St Gregory's Bedale

Who's Who Around the Benefice

Rector

Rev'd Canon Simon Moor samoor@bedale.church 01677 988175

Clergy

Rev'd Robin Brown robin.stel1@btinternet.com 01677 425483
Rev'd Philip Carrington philipjcarrington@gmail.com 01677 425077
Rev'd Canon Adrian Gatrill adrian.gatrill@gmail.com 07920 837256

Readers

Michelle Dearlove michelle@bedale.church 07483 296927
Steve Madsen snmadsen@outlook.com 01677 988178

Family Chaplain

Michelle Dearlove michelle@bedale.church 07483 296927

Parish Administrator

Sarah Ryder admin@bedale.church 01677 425985

Benefice Safeguarding Officer

Linda Collingwood safeguarding@bedale.church 07944 599351

Chantry Hall Lets

Sarah Ryder admin@bedale.church 01677 425985

Bulletin and Magazine Via the Rector or Parish Administrator

St Gregory, Bedale

Church Wardens

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Linda Collingwood cw.linda@bedale.church 07944 599351

Treasurer

Paul Carnell treasurer@bedale.Church 01677 422503

PCC Secretary

Sarah Ryder pccsecretary@bedale.Church 01677 425985

Organist

Richard Boyton rickdomino47@aol.com 01677 425800

Bell Ringers

Rev Robin Brown robin.stel1@btinternet.com 01677 425483

Electoral Roll Officer

Sarah Ryder pccsecretary@bedale.Church 01677 425985

Mission Church, Burrill

Church Warden
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Treasurers
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PCC Secretaries
Elaine Averis elaineaveris@gmail.com 01677 424300
Jonathon Page 077894 36119

St Mary the Virgin, Thornton Watlass

Church Warden
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Organist
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Electoral Roll Officer
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St John the Baptist, Leeming

Church Warden
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Treasurer and PCC Secretary
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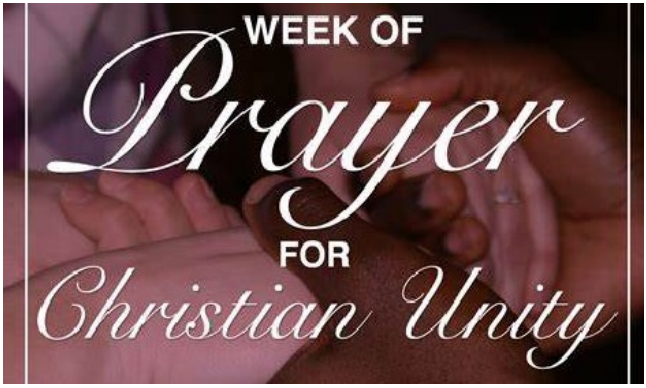


CHURCHES TOGETHER

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is being observed by the Churches Together in Bedale Sunday 19th to Saturday 25th January with two distinct occasions.

A service on Sunday 19th January at 630pm
Bedale and District Methodist Church

A service focussing on the week ahead
and praying for all Christians hold in common.

Saturday 25th January
Pilgrimage Walk of Unity

12.30pm at St John's, Leeming and St Mary's Thornton Watlass
Prayers and walk to St Mary and St Joseph R.C Church Aiskew.

Then 2pm St Mary and St Joseph R.C Church Aiskew.

Then onto St Gregory's Bedale

Finally to Bedale and District Methodist Church

Each place will have some prayers, a reading and song.

If you are unable to walk the pilgrimage,
please organise or offer lifts to those less mobile.

Refreshments will be served at the final destination

How Modern are you ??

Currently to some people, the idea of sending Christmas cards seems somewhat outdated, yet others would not consider this to be so. Looking at both arguments, let's see which one you would prefer (if you could) or wanted to.

Taking the argument for traditional Christmas cards, there is something lovely about choosing a card and writing the recipient's name and signing it in your own handwriting. To the recipient, the feeling the sender has thought especially about them. To this end, the sender has achieved the effect they wished – a happy recipient!

Now, the other side of this argument is the cost of the cards, the shopping for them, looking at the best one or appropriate one for you to send. Then there is the time to do all that, followed by the time to write the cards and address them and affix the stamp, which today is more expensive than ever, and you cannot guarantee when it will be delivered – and walk to the post box to post them.

On the other side of this argument, digital Christmas cards are ideal, especially if you wish to send the same card to several recipients. These can be by laptop, personal computer or mobile 'phone or iPad. One of the nicest ways is by using a card application, such as 'jacquilawson.com' BUT, the recipient needs to have a device on which to receive it.

Then you have the humble mobile, which, doesn't need to be the latest all singing, all dancing model, where most people could and would, if they wanted to, send a text to wish friends

the ‘compliments of the season’. The cost so far, using digital applications on your electronic devices is the amount paid for the device, plus the cost of the application. This is the initial cost, but afterwards, you can use the application for as long as the application is viable.

Which is your preferred choice for sending Christmas Cards?

There is no right or wrong choice as it is personal to you as an individual. If you check in most books on etiquette and modern manners, it is frowned upon to send a digital card, but it is also incorrect to send a ‘Round Robin’ letter within the traditional Christmas Card, as it implies that everyone is keen to know the events and happenings in the sender’s year, making it look as if they have more interesting lives than the recipient. The idea of personalised Christmas Cards with the sender’s name written as part of the personalisation, should be avoided, but can be made acceptable by putting the recipients name at the top of the card, and also signing the card as the sender - this seems a waste of time to personalise the card in the first place.

The same goes for sending cards which have a printed photograph of the sender’s family on the front. This is something reserved more for the Royal Family and should be left as such.

Whichever camp you fall into, may I take this opportunity of wishing you all a very happy Christmas, and a peaceful and loving 2025.

Mal Rowland.

This is the regular call for all who may be interested in confirmation classes. I have already had enquiries from three individuals looking for a little learning into the Christian faith. As ever I would ask for volunteers from any of our churches in the Benefice to accompany them. My initial premise in these sessions is not to tell people what to believe but what I believe and why. Other voices are useful then to add diversity and colour to the discussions.

I hope to meet Tuesday evenings beginning 7 January, at 6.30pm in the Old Grammer School at the entrance to St Gregory's church path.

There is a confirmation service booked at the end of March, when Bishop Anna will be with us.

Simon

Wittering of the WatlassWarden.

I want to begin by saying how heartening it is to discover how many people actually read what is written in 'Bedale and Beyond' each month. The number of people who have commented to me about what I wrote last time about harvest and our farmers has been quite astonishing. Of course, farmers have been in the limelight again recently because of the issues associated with the inheritance of land, an issue that will not go away soon. Farmers are concerned that they cannot plan for the future and the continued working of the land by their family and descendants to provide us all with the food we all need to survive now and in the future. As we approach Christmas we enter a time of preparation and planning for our future.

As I have said in previous years, Advent is a time of preparation but it does no harm to give some thought to what we are preparing for. We are preparing for the coming of Jesus, firstly, as we remember what happened 2,000 years ago when Jesus came into the world as a baby to live as a man and die for us. Secondly as we give some thought to the Second Coming when Jesus will come back to earth as King and Judge. Thirdly, as we rethink what it means to us as we welcome again Jesus into our lives. This year Advent Sunday is on the 1st December and we will have more than four full weeks in December to prepare ourselves to celebrate Jesus' birth and to look forward to His Second Coming. Do not forget we do not the day or the hour! (See Matthew 25)

This week, the last week of November, I will undertake my annual pilgrimage around the fields nearby to look for holly with berries to put in our Advent wreath with its candles which are lit as the weeks progress. On the four Sundays of Advent, we will be reminded that the first candle tells us to have hope as we look forward to the coming of Jesus Christ our Lord. We take comfort in the fact that Jesus' return gets nearer every day. The second candle is lit to symbolise peace, as we eagerly anticipate the coming reign of the Prince of Peace. Doesn't the world need that! In Christ, all people are united together into the family of God where all can live in harmony. On the third Sunday we light the candle that symbolises joy, knowing that fullness of joy comes from God alone. There can be joy in waiting, as we anticipate all that is to come with the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the fourth Sunday the candle symbolises love, conscious that we are known and loved by God. We are thankful to God, who out of His love for us sent His Son into the world

to bring reconciliation. So we look forward to the time when Jesus returns and establishes his Kingdom of love for ever.
Then, of course, we light a fifth candle on Christmas morning to symbolise Jesus, the light of the world. The birth of Jesus heralds a dawning of a new time, God dwells with His people. God's light enters the world and the darkness is powerless to overcome it. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." Happy Christmas to all who read this, and those who don't!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please see the December dates elsewhere in the magazine.

December 29th No service at Thornton Watlass. Benefice Service 1030am at St. Gregory's Bedale.

January

19th	6.30pm	Service for Christian Unity at Bedale and District Methodist Church
21st	7.30pm	Thornton Watlass Gardening Club meets in the village Hall, Chris Carruthers will give a presentation on Keukenhof Gardens. Visitors welcome.
25th	12.30pm	Unity Walk leaves St. Mary's Church for Bedale all welcome to come along.

Words From Leeming

Well, having sat down to meet a certain person's "deadline" for an article, with a completely blank memory (what's new there then said Joan), I've been through my diary, and Joan's memory, of what to mention. So, here goes.

In no particular order I'll start of thanking everyone who attended the Harvest Service and Lunch. Really well attended and as always, a super spread provided by the ladies. And to our local school, well done, yet another super production that was very well supported by friends and family. So nice that they continue to use the church for their ever increasingly brilliant shows. If you've not seen one, you must add it on your "to do" list.

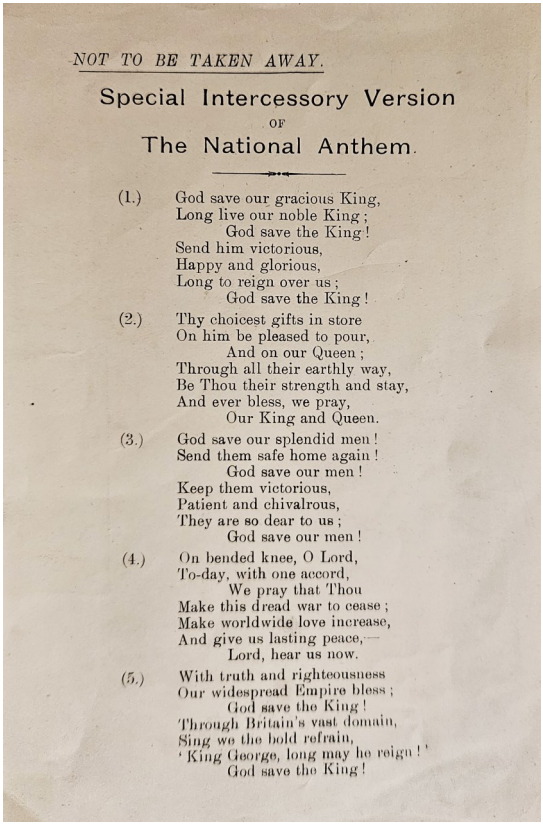
Coffee mornings (3rd Thursday of each month, *except for December when it will be on 12th*!!) continue to bring together both congregants and locals. Your support is very welcome and there's always lively

chat, coffee/tea and, of course cakes. Is it coincidence that a member of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission team just seem to arrive in time for a “break”!!

Remembrance Sunday was well attended with an increase in numbers attending. Many thanks to Steve, who, as always, conducted a very moving experience. And, yet again, our mysterious donor, has produced another lovely sculpture. To whoever you are, many thanks, they really are appreciated. Previous donations are kept, on display, in church.

Thinking back to our 600th Anniversary celebrations, all the photographs that were on display have now been removed and put into a folder. Anyone who would like to see them again just let me know. and you can borrow them to look through at home if you wish.

And now for something completely different. Following our Quinquennial inspection, it was thought that it might be the appropriate time to have a “sort out”. First discovery stopped further “tidying” as we are fascinated at what we found. A mass of (numbered) copies of Hymns dated 1896. The numbers indicate that must have been a substantial choir then!! Also, something that none of us have ever seen before, a copy, dated 1917, of the National Anthem with 5 verses!! (see the photo to the right).



NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY.

Special Intercessory Version
OF
The National Anthem.

(1.) God save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King;
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us;
God save the King!

(2.) Thy choicest gifts in store
On him be pleased to pour,
And on our Queen;
Through all their earthly way,
Be Thou their strength and stay,
And ever bless, we pray,
Our King and Queen.

(3.) God save our splendid men!
Send them safe home again!
God save our men!
Keep them victorious,
Patient and chivalrous,
They are so dear to us;
God save our men!

(4.) On bended knee, O Lord,
To-day, with one accord,
We pray that Thou
Make this dread war to cease;
Make worldwide love increase,
And give us lasting peace,—
Lord, hear us now.

(5.) With truth and righteousness
Our widespread Empire bless;
God save the King!
Through Britain's vast domain,
Sing we the bold refrain,
'King George, long may he reign!'
God save the King!

Well, from sitting down with nowt to ramble on about, I’ve hopefully given you an insight to the last few weeks. Any further interesting find will be reported!!

Take care, keep warm and God bless. Chris L